

**OUTGOING
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Following working level draft reply to Soviet note no. 92/OSA furnished by Dept today to UK, French and Fedrep Embassies with request for Fonoff comment by Jan 5. Final text will be submitted to NAC for discussion. Comment from addressees requested.

BEGIN TEXT. The US Govt cannot prevent the Govt of the USSR from describing as it chooses the regime which it set up in the Zone of Occupation in Germany allocated to it by Four Power Agreement, or its relationships with that regime. The description of such relations is of direct interest to the Government of the US only to the extent that it touches upon the obligations and the responsibilities of the Soviet Union towards the US, the UK and France, and towards the German population, under the agreements and arrangements with respect to Germany which are in effect among the four powers. As the Govt of the US repeatedly has reminded the Soviet Govt, the Soviet Union cannot

evoke

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evade or escape its responsibilities and obligations under such four power agreements by ostensible alterations in its working relationship with the regime which the Soviet Union chooses to call the "German Democratic Republic." These responsibilities and obligations can be terminated or altered only by common agreement of the four powers concerned.

The US Govt has no desire needlessly to annoy the USSR on matters of terminology. However, it is unwilling to refer to the so-called GDR in terms which falsify the factual situation or which inaccurately reflect the US Govt's well-known views on the character of that regime. The Govt of the US trusts that the Soviet Govt on its part does not have the intention of aggravating the differences which already exist between the US and the Soviet Union on the question of Germany by refusing to receive communications merely because the Government of the US cannot share the views of the Soviet Govt as to the proper designation of the area or the authorities referred to in such communications. END ~~CONFIDENTIAL TEXT~~

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